MATRIX 2: Digital Support Features

Digital Support Features are specific embedded features in digital learning resources (DLRs) that assist students in understanding or communicating the content and/or activities provided in the DLR. This is a preliminary list to prompt further discussion among developers and educators.

Support Feature Category	Definition	Category	Examples
Visual Support Features	Provide visual images or other visual supports to assist a student in understanding and/or communicating a concept or idea.	**Visual definition**	Links to a video or image(s) providing a visual definition of a concept or word.
		Interactive visual features	Manipulable visual representation of a concept, such as a graphing calculator feature integrated into a DLR, providing representations of concepts based upon information that a student enters.
		Closed captioning	Text shown on the video screen provides print as well as audio that is useful for English learners still developing their ability to understand spoken English.
Auditory Support Features	Provide speech or other use of sound to assist a student in understanding and/or communicating a concept or idea.	**Auditory definition**	Allows students to click on a word to hear a definition of a concept or word.
		Text-to-speech for text selection	Reads aloud text such as a selection on academic content, a story, directions for a lab experiment, or math questions; might include options to play, pause, adjust the volume, and/or control the speed at which the text is read. The language used may be English or another language, depending on the materials used.
		Text-to-speech for highlighted word	Allows readers to hear an individual word or phrase.
		Record and replay voice	Enables students to record their voice; replay it so that they can hear their own voice, perhaps make adjustments to and/or practice pronunciation, practice their part in a presentation, or save for sharing with others.
Translation Support Features	Provide embedded functions to translate from one language to the other, in either speech or print, and for either a word or limited text.	**Spoken word translation**	Enables a student to hear a spoken translation in his/her home language of an unfamiliar English word.
		Printed word translation	Enables a student to view a written translation in his/her home language of an unfamiliar English word.
		Spoken text translation	Enables a student to hear spoken statements in one language as spoken in another language.
		Printed text translation	Enables a student to view a section of text in one language as written in another language.
Collaboration Support Features	Embedded functions that students use to communicate, collaborate, work, or share information about academic content.	**Document sharing**	Allows multiple students to share a digital document and use annotation tools to add notes or comments.
		Collaboration based on proficiency level	Allows students to collaborate with peers according to their proficiency levels (e.g., peers at the same Lexile reading comprehension level).

Note: This matrix is a preliminary summary of supports created for the toolkits based on insights gained through the NSELD research.